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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 10 October 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication dated 29 August 2002, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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## Annex

### Letter dated 29 August 2002 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the July monthly report on SFOR operations (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

## Enclosure

### Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 July 2002) there were just over 16,300 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia with contributions from the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.

2. During the period under review, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable.

#### Security

3. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continues to contribute towards the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; monitor compliance by the Entity Armed Forces; conduct inspections and consolidation of weapons storage sites; provide support to the international organizations working in theatre, and to the Federation authorities in collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest; and monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country.

4. SFOR is continuing an operation, which began on 21 May, in the eastern part of the Republika Srpska to encourage the local population to provide information on the location and movement of persons indicted for war crimes, and to cooperate in their capture. On 2 July, SFOR troops searched one of the Karadzic family homes on the outskirts of Pale, and seized documents, computer disks, videotapes, and three pistols. This search operation created very little public interest. On 3 July, leaflets were dropped over the towns of Han Pijesak, Visegrad and Vlasenica.[1]

5. On 7 July, in Bratunac, SFOR detained Miroslav Deronjic, indicted by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for violations of the laws or customs of war and for crimes against humanity (persecutions and murder) carried out in May 1992. On 9 July, SFOR detained Radovan Stankovic, indicted by the Tribunal for enslavement, rape, inhumane treatment and outrages upon the personal dignity of non-Serb civilians during the siege of Foca in 1992. Both men were subsequently transferred to The Hague.[1]

6. SFOR continued Operation Harvest during July and significantly increased the amount of items collected. In the period from 1 January to 31 July 2002, the total number of weapons and ammunition collected amounted to 5,399 small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers); 1,320,242 rounds of ammunition less than 20 mm; 12,901 rounds of ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm; 2,220 rounds of ammunition more than 76 mm; 21,482 hand grenades; 2,988 mines; 6,008 explosives; and 38,029 other items (mortars, mortar rounds, rifle grenades, and hand-made ordnance).

7. Following the unannounced inspections carried out in May at the Bosnian Serb (VRS) Lisina air force site and the VRS Air Force headquarters at Zaluzani, SFOR conducted unannounced inspections of two Federation electronic warfare sites on 16 July — one at the Bosniac site of Bihac, and another at the Bosnian Croat site of Jajce. As a result of documents found at Jajce, SFOR carried out another inspection

[1] The Russian Federation reserves its special position on these matters.

at the 88 Military Intelligence Battalion headquarters in Mostar, and is currently analysing documents taken from there.

8. By another inspection carried out on a camouflaged radio relay station between Gorazde and Praca on 27 July, SFOR has established that no illegal monitoring of its activities has been carried out at that particular site.

9. In the period from 4 to 10 July SFOR carried out a road safety campaign emphasizing, inter alia, speed limits, wearing of seatbelts, and preparation of first aid kits, with the aim of reducing the number of deaths, injuries and material damage in traffic accidents.

**Cooperation and compliance by the parties**

10. Throughout the month of July the Entity Armed Forces carried out regular training activities which were generally in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

11. During the period under review, SFOR monitored a total of 318 training and movement activities: 138 Bosnian Serb; 42 Bosniac; 84 Bosnian Croat; and 14 Federation.

12. A total of 773 mine-clearing activities were monitored over this period: 326 Bosnian Serb; 317 Bosniac; and 130 Bosnian Croat.

13. SFOR also carried out 98 inspections and verifications of weapons storage sites: 48 Bosnian Serb; 19 Bosniac; 15 Bosnian Croat; and 16 Federation.

14. On 23 July, 31 Scorpion 7.65 automatic pistols were reported missing from a Bosnian Serb weapons storage site at Bogaz near Han Pijesak (30 km west of Srebrenica).[2] Instead of imposing a ban on training outside barracks, as had been done in other cases of stolen weapons reported earlier this year, the Commander of SFOR accepted the plan of the Bosnian Serbs to investigate the theft. On 31 July, the Commander of SFOR discussed the outcome of the investigation with the Commander of the Republika Srpska's fifth Corps. The Commander stated that the theft had been criminally motivated, that he had removed those responsible for the lack of security, and had given his assurance that corrective measures would be taken to improve the situation.

**Cooperation with international organizations**

15. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the Office of the High Representative, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

16. During the reporting period, SFOR provided support to IPTF during a demonstration in Zenica on 3 July, during a general strike in Lukavac and Tuzla on 4 July, and during ceremonies in Srebrenica on 5 and 11 July. On 15 July, SFOR

[2] The latest theft of weapons is the fifth of its kind to have been reported in Bosnia and Herzegovina this year — previous cases included two from Bosnian Serb sites and two from Bosnian Croat sites.

patrols were increased in the Travnik, Zenika and Sarajevo areas following a report from the Government that extremists had acquired four surface-to-air missiles and were planning to attack Javier Solana, or the aircraft used by the Presidents of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to attend the three-nation presidential summit.

17. On 19 July, SFOR also provided support to IPTF during an investigation of an alleged border violation at Kostajnica bridge, an area disputed by Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.[3]

18. Assistance continues to be provided by SFOR to the Office of the High Representative in monitoring the situation in the Dobrinja area.

19. SFOR provided support to the Tribunal during exhumations in and around Gorazde, Sarajevo, Kotor Varos and Zvornik.

20. Following talks between NATO and ICAO on matters of airspace normalization, amended civil special instructions will be published on 1 August for the operation of three airways between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Thereafter, Air Bosnia will begin a direct, regular passenger service between Sarajevo and Belgrade.

21. In discussions led by the Office of the High Representative and the Federation Minister of Transportation on the handover of Sarajevo airport, SFOR has indicated its willingness to offer some interim support once the Federation has offered a timetable and firm commitment to take over airport operations.

**Outlook**

22. The security situation is expected to remain stable. Preparations for the general elections to be held in October have so far been low key.

[3] The Croatian and Bosnian authorities signed a draft agreement on 23 July, calling for a joint checkpoint on the Kostajnica bridge and a customs point on the disputed island formed by the Uncica and Una Rivers. The agreement has to be finalized by Sarajevo and Zagreb.